



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS,
TRIBAL AND PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

March 4, 2013

Mr. Stanley Speaks
Northwest Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Northwest Region
911 Northeast 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

Re: Comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Spokane Tribe of Indians West Plains Casino and Mixed Use Project (EPA Project Number: 09-048-BIA).

Dear Mr. Speaks:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the Clean Air Act §309 and the National Environmental Policy Act, the US Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Bureau of Indian Affairs Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Spokane Tribe of Indians West Plains Casino and Mixed Use Project in Spokane County, Washington.

In our comments on the draft EIS in April 2012, the EPA expressed concerns with the project due to its potential impacts to water and air quality. Because the site is adjacent to a maintenance area for carbon monoxide and particulate matter (PM₁₀), we recommended further analysis. We also recommended additional discussion regarding energy efficiency and conservation.

The FEIS was responsive to our comments on the draft EIS. Specifically, we appreciate additional air conformity analyses received for review and comment. We submitted comments on the draft Conformity Determination and we expect to continue our involvement in upcoming review of the final CD for the project. The FEIS also includes more clarifying information on measures to protect and preserve water quality and biological resources in the project area. In addition, we note that the BIA made other changes to the EIS between draft and final based on comments received from other agencies and the public. Your responses address our concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this FEIS. If you have questions about our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at reichgott.christine@epa.gov, or you may contact Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322 or by electronic mail at mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christine B. Reichgott", is positioned above the typed name.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit